

## **BAY COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORTHODONTIC EXPENSES**

Unlike other insured medical expenses, orthodontia is always treated as an extraordinary expense. Per the Michigan Child Support Formula Manual, 'on average families routinely spend \$403 per year per child on ordinary medical expenses.' Because a child who incurs orthodontic expenses will still incur the ordinary medical expenses that a child without orthodontia will incur, orthodontia is treated as extraordinary expenses. What this means is the orthodontic expense is immediately subject to the uninsured medical percentage split in your order.

When seeking assistance from the Friend of the Court for orthodontic expenses, please submit the statement from the provider's office which should include:

- The total cost of treatment
- The initial down payment
- Any expected insurance payments
- Length of treatment contract
- Required monthly payment amount

When this information is received, we will prepare the necessary paperwork indicating each parent's obligation for this expense. A referee hearing with the Friend of the Court will then be scheduled. Both parties are encouraged to attend this hearing.